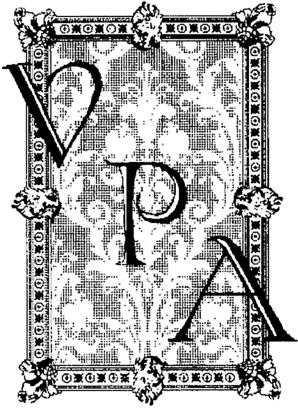


VICTORIAN PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION
OF SANTA CLARA VALLEY



THE
OLD HOME FOLKS

VOL. 49 ... JUNE 2023 ... No. 7



VPA ANNUAL ICE CREAM SOCIAL

by Hullene Salomon

Date: Sunday, July 23
Time: 2:00 PM
Location: Backesto Park
651 E Empire Street
San Jose, CA 95112

An afternoon of leisure and catching up with friends is planned for Sunday, July 23, at our Annual Ice Cream Social.

VPA will be dishing up ice cream and providing a few toppings. Once again, we are requesting that members bring their favorite ice cream toppings to share. You can never have too many choices!

This year the ice cream social is being held at Backesto Park situated in North San Jose. The park is more than 75 years old and derives its name from John Pierre Backesto, a nineteenth century physician. In 1890, his widow, Anne Backesto, donated \$30,000 to the City of San Jose in his memory to create a park. In 1920, the city got around to making use of the money to purchase the two-block tract surrounded by 13th, 15th, Empire, and Jackson Streets. In 1922, the park officially opened.

The park boasts a community center, BBQ area, children’s playground, handball courts, bocce ball, basketball, tennis, and lighted softball field. The jewel of the park is its mosaic fountain decorated with ceramic tiles. The fountain dates to 1922 and is the oldest Solon & Schemmel structure in existence.

The park is a small neighborhood park so you should be able to see us, and we will be watching for you. We are hoping to set up on the 13th Street side of the park where there seems to be the most shade. There are very few

picnic tables, so seating will be limited. If you could bring a chair or two that would be great. There is street parking available, and no parking permits required.

Please join us and be sure to invite your family, friends, and neighbors to join us. We hope to see you all there!



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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

by Marcus Salomon

What a great program this past month! We had good member attendance and some interested neighbors also joined us for Matt Paolercio's talk on Architectural Salvage. Matt was entertaining and his experience in the subject made for an informative and fun evening. Thanks also to Kay Gutknecht for hosting and providing a perfect venue.

Since we put out the word on a future yard sale, we have had some great donations, thank you to those of you that have contributed your treasures. But we are looking for more. We are hoping to have the sale in late summer or early fall, and we could use more items to sell. Please contact me at 408-930-9133 or marcussc21@gmail.com if you have anything you may want to part with that could help us out. We are still looking for a venue as well, if you think you could host the sale in your driveway, please let me know.

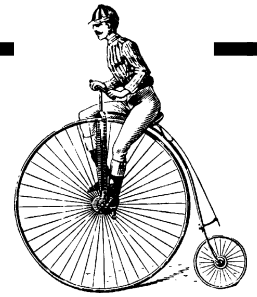
As mentioned in my last article our treasurer, Larry Ames, is also helping with the fundraising effort. This fall he will be producing a special-run-limited-edition printing of a Christmas card designed by VPA members. He is currently looking for inspiration and asking members to submit pictures to him of something that says, "Vintage House Club". You can send photos of evocative items: pictures, maybe a weathervane or porch swing, a door or a room decorated for the holidays. He will then pick through and make into a design for the card. You can send your photos and ideas to Larry at larry@l-ames.com with the words VPA Photos in the subject line. We are hoping to have a design to show in the September Newsletter.

Once again we have made it to our annual Ice Cream Social. This year it will be at Backesto Park on N 13th Street. I very much look forward to seeing you there!

*Contributing to this Issue:
Sara Bruce, Hullene Salomon & Marcus
Salomon*

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Have You Heard the Latest?

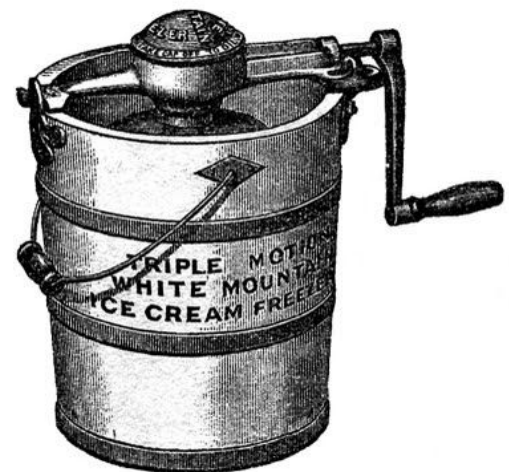


PAC-SJ Summer Sale

Preservation Action Council of San Jose is hosting its final sale of the summer on August 18th and 19th at 260 South 13th Street, San Jose. Members and Friends reception on Friday evening from 5-7. Join us for light refreshments and beverages!!

Friday 9am till 7pm
Saturday 9am till 1pm

The usual collection of weird and wonderful items will be available for purchase. We are collecting items from various estates and retiring antique dealers now that will be displayed over 5 houses. Please contact Patt at donations@preservation.org for more information, to donate or to volunteer.



**NEXT NEWSLETTER
DEADLINE:**

AUGUST 15



VINTAGE COCKTAIL CORNER

By Sara Bruce

The Mojito

The Mojito is one of the most popular and refreshing summer drinks. It takes some work to make it, muddling mint and juicing limes, but it's worth it!

The Mojito has its origins in Cuba. *La Bodeguita del medio* in Havana, Cuba claims to be the cocktail's birthplace, and also claims that Ernest Hemmingway particularly liked their version of the drink (some Hemmingway scholars are doubtful). Whether or not this bar invented the drink, its roots go back much further.

Even the origin of the name is a mystery. African slaves working in the Cuban sugar cane fields created a drink from *Aguardiente de cana* (firewater of the sugar cane, a simple sugar cane alcohol). They may have called the drink *Mojo*, which refers to a magic spell or charm. Alternately, the name may be derived from the Spanish word *mojadito*, meaning "a little wet" or the Cuban lime-based seasoning called *mojo*.

One origin story says that Sir Francis Drake obtained a medicine from the indigenous people of Cuba to fight scurvy. The tonic of *aguardiente de cana*, mint leaves, and the juices from sugar cane and limes turned out to be effective, and was soon mixed with the ship's rum to make it more palatable.

There are many variations on the Mojito using different fruits, spirits, and sweeteners, but here is a basic recipe to start with:

- 1-1/2 ounce White Rum
- 1 oz Fresh Lime Juice
- 2-3 teaspoons Sugar
- 6-10 Mint Leaves (or a sprig)
- Soda Water

Place the mint in a tall glass with the sugar and muddle. If you don't have a muddler, try using the handle of a wooden spoon, or crush the mint in your hand. You only need to bruise the leaves enough to release the oils. (You can also muddle some lime zest to add more lime flavor.)

Stir in the rum and lime juice until the sugar dissolves. Stir with ice and top with soda water. Garnish with a mint sprig.

Cheers!

CELEBRATE WITH US THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF ALAMEDA'S LEGACY HOME TOUR!

Join us on Sunday September 17th, from 10 am to 4 pm. Spend the day on a lovely island, visit the splendid interiors of historic homes and stroll through neighborhoods rich in architectural history.

The ticket price includes a keepsake "Legacy Guidebook" with detailed architectural and historic information on each of the properties included on the tour, a detailed map with addresses and tour route, as well as light refreshments at Franklin Park. Visit booths with vendors that restore and provide ideas and services to fix your own home - from windows, to flooring, and from paint to upholstery.

When you purchase your tickets on Eventbrite, you'll receive a voucher as a receipt for your purchase. Print it on paper or save it onto your mobile device. And on September 17th you'll check in at the ticket table at Franklin Park, (corner of San Antonio and Morton St.) to exchange your voucher for a wristband - which will be your ticket to the tour.

We have seven amazing historic homes on the tour this year all open for viewing, and they're all walking distance from Franklin Park. Start your tour in any order you want, between 10am and 4pm. Docents and volunteers--some dressed in period costumes--will be ready to guide and inform you every step of the way. Bring your family and friends! We look forward to seeing you on the tour!

If you have any questions or need more information, call or email:

Denise Brady 510-469-6324

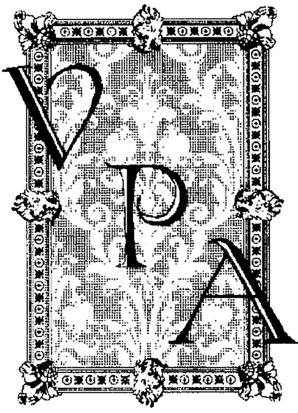
dbrady001@aol.com

or visit us at:

alameda-legacy-home-tour.org

Docents Needed!

Docents for either 10-1 or 1-4 shifts are needed. Docents will receive free admission to all houses. Contact Denise at the above contacts if you are interested or have any questions..



VICTORIAN
PRESERVATION
ASSOCIATION
of Santa Clara Valley

P.O. Box 586
San Jose, CA 95106-0586

UPCOMING HISTORICAL EVENTS

| | |
|------------|---|
| July 23 | VPA July event. See p. 1 for more details. |
| Aug. 18-19 | PAC-SJ Summer Sale. |
| Sept. 17 | Alameda Legacy Home Tour, see. p 3 for more info. |

ABOUT THE VPA

Members of the Victorian Preservation Association of Santa Clara Valley, a nonprofit organization, share an interest in the older buildings of our community, especially turn-of-the-century homes. Membership is open to anyone interested in learning about building and conservation techniques, architecture, decoration, and historic preservation. Meetings are usually held in members' historic homes, but being an owner of one of these homes is not required for membership. Membership is \$30 per year per household. To join the club, go to www.vpa.org and click on the "Join the VPA" button.

Officers

| | |
|----------------|----------------|
| President | Marcus Salomon |
| Vice-President | Sara Bruce |
| Secretary | Mike Tierney |
| Treasurer | Larry Ames |
| Past-President | Keith Shukait |

At Large Board

| | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| Hullene Salomon | Dave Hedges |
| Pam Shukait | Diana Tone Adams |
| Ron Hagen | |

Committee Contacts

| | |
|--------------|-------------------------|
| Newsletter | Mike Tierney |
| Membership | Hullene Salomon |
| Social Media | Miranda von Stockhausen |
| Historian | Manuel Lima |
| Name Badges | Hullene Salomon |

